Numb. 179

The TATLER.

By *Isaac Bickerstaff* Esq;

—— Oh! Quis me gelidis sub Montibus Hæmi
Sistat, & ingenti Ramorum protegat Umbra?

From *Tuesday May* 30. to *Thursday June* 1. 1710.

From my own Apartment, May 31.

IN this parched Season, next to the Pleasure of going into the Country, is that of hearing from it, and partaking the Joys of it in Description, as in the following Letter:

SIR,

'I Believe you will forgive me, tho' I write to you a very long Epistle, since it relates to the 'Satisfaction of a Country Life, which I know 'you would lead if you could. In the first Place I 'must confess to you, That I am one of the most luxu-'rious Men living, and as I am such, I take Care 'to make my Pleasures lasting, by following none 'but such as are innocent and refined, as well as, 'in some Measure, improving. You have in your 'Labours been so much concerned to represent the 'Actions and Passions of Mankind, that the whole 'Vegetable World has almost escaped your Obser-'vations. But sure there are Gratifications to be 'drawn from thence which deserve to be recom-'mended. For your better Information, I wish 'you could visit your old Friend in *Cornwal*: You 'would be pleased to see the many Alterations I 'have made about my House, and how much I 'have improved my Estate without raising the 'Rents of it.

'As the Winter ingrosses with us near a double 'Portion of the Year, (the Three delightful Vicissi-'tudes being crowded almost within the Space of 'Six Months) there is nothing upon which I have 'bestowed so much Study and Expence, as in con-'triving Means to soften the Severity of it, and, if 'possible, to establish Twelve chearful Months a-'bout my Habitation. In order to this, the Char-'ges I have been at in building and furnishing a 'Green-house, will, perhaps, be thought somewhat 'extravagant by a great many Gentlemen whose 'Revenues exceed mine. But when I consider, 'That all Men of any Life and Spirit have their In-'clinations to gratify, and when I compute the 'Sums laid out by the Generality of the Men of 'Pleasure (in the Number of which I always rank 'my self) in riotous Eating and Drinking, in 'Equipage and Apparel, upon Wenching, Gaming, 'Racing and Hunting; I find upon the Ballance, 'that the Indulging of my Humour comes at a 'reasonable Rate.

'Since I communicate to you all Incidents, se-'rious and trifling, even to the Death of a Butter-'fly, that fall out within the Compass of my little 'Empire, you will not, I hope, be ill pleased with 'the Draught I now send you of my little Winter 'Paradise, and with an Account of my Way of a-'musing my self and others in it.

'The younger *Pliny*, you know, writes a long 'Letter to his Friend *Gallus*, in which he gives him 'a very particular Plan of the Situation, the Con-'veniences, and the Agreeableness of his Villa. 'In my last, you may remember, I promised you 'something of this Kind. Had *Pliny* lived in a '*Northern* Climate, I doubt not but we should 'have found a very compleat Orangery amongst 'his Epistles; and I, probably, should have copied 'his Model, instead of building after my own 'Fancy, and you had been referred to him for the 'History of my late Exploits in Architecture: By 'which Means my Performances would have made 'a better Figure, at least in Writing, than they 'are like to make at present.

'The Area of my Green-house is a Hundred Paces 'long, Fifty broad, and the Roof Thirty Foot high. 'The Wall toward the *North* is of solid Stone: 'On the *South* Side, and at both the Ends, the 'Stone-work rises but Three Foot from the Ground, 'excepting the Pilasters, placed at convenient Di-'stances, to strengthen and beautify the Building. 'The intermediate Spaces are filled up with large 'Sashes of the strongest and most transparent Glass. 'The middle Sash (which is wider than any of the 'other) serves for the Entrance, to which you 'mount by Six easy Steps, and descend on the In-'side by as many. This opens and shuts with great-'er Ease, keeps the Wind out better, and is at the 'same Time more uniform than Folding-Doors.

'In the middle of the Roof there runs a Cieling 'Thirty Foot broad from one End to the other. This 'is enlivened by a Masterly Pencil with all the Va-'riety of Rural Scenes and Prospects, which he has 'peopled with the whole Tribe of Silvan Deities. 'Their Characters and their Stories are so well ex-'pressed, that the whole seems a Collection of all 'the most beautiful Fables of the ancient Poets 'translated into Colours. The remaining Spaces of 'the Roof, Ten Foot on each Side of the Cieling, 'are of the clearest Glass, to let in the Sky and 'Clouds from above. The Building points full 'East and *West*; so that I enjoy the Sun while he is 'above the Horizon. His Rays are improved thro' 'the Glass, and I receive through it what is de-'sirable in a Winter-Sky, without the coarse 'Allay of the Season; which is a Kind of sifting or 'straining the Weather. My Greens and Flowers 'are as sensible as I am of this Benefit: They flou-'rish and look chearful as in the Spring, while 'their Fellow-Creatures abroad are starved to Death. 'I must add, That a moderate Expence of Fire, 'over and above the Contributions I receive from 'the Sun, serves to keep this large Room in a due 'Temperature; it being sheltered from the cold 'Winds by a Hill on the *North*, and a Wood on 'the *East*.

'The Shell, you see, is both agreeable and conve-'nient; and now you shall judge, whether I have 'laid out the Floor to Advantage. There goes thro' 'the whole Length of it a spacious Walk of the finest 'Gravel, made to bind and unite so firmly, that 'it seems one continued Stone; with this Advan-'tage, that it is easier to the Foot, and better for 'Walking, than if it were what it seems to be. At 'each End of the Walk, on the one and on the other 'Side of it, lies a square Plot of Grass of the finest 'Turf, and brightest Verdure. What Ground re-'mains on both Sides, between these little smooth 'Fields of Green, is flagged with large Quarries of 'White Marble, where the Blue Veins trace out 'such a Variety of irregular Windings thro' the

'clear Surface, that these bright Plains seem full of Rivulets and streaming Meanders. This to my Eye, that delights in Simplicity, is inexpressibly more beautiful than the Checquered Floors which are so generally admired by others. Upon the Right and upon the Left, along the Gravel-Walk, I have ranged interchangeably the Bay, the Myrtle, the Orange and the Limon Trees, intermix'd with painted Hollies, Silver Firs, and Pyramids of Yew; all so disposed, that every Tree receives an additional Beauty from its Situation; besides the Harmony that rises from the Disposition of the whole, no Shade cuts too strongly, or breaks in harshly upon the other; but the Eye is cheared with a mild, rather than gorgeous, Diversity of Greens.

'The Borders of the Four Grass-Plots are garnished with Pots of Flowers. Those Delicacies of Nature recreate two Senses at once, and leave such delightful and gentle Impressions upon the Brain, that I cannot help thinking them of equal Force with the softest Airs of Musick toward the smoothing of our Tempers. In the Centre of every Plot is a Statue. The Figures I have made Choice of, are, a *Venus*, an *Adonis*, a *Diana*, and an *Apollo*; such excellent Copies as to raise the same Delight as we should draw from the Sight of the ancient Originals.

'The North Wall would have been but a tiresome Waste to the Eye, if I had not diversified it with the most lively Ornaments suitable to the Place. To this Intent, I have been at the Expence to lead over Arches from a neighbouring Hill a plentiful Store of Spring-Water, which a beautiful *Naiade*, placed as high as is possible in the Centre of the Wall, pours out from an Urn. This, by a Fall of above twenty Foot, makes a most delightful Cascade into a Basin, that opens wide within the Marble Floor on that Side. At a reasonable Distance, on either Hand of the Cascade, the Wall is hollowed into two spreading Scallops, each of which receives a Couch of green Velvet, and forms at the same Time a Canopy over them. Next to them come two large Aviaries, which are likewise let into the Stone. These are succeeded by two Grotto's, set off with all the pleasing Rudeness of Shells and Moss, and cragged Stones, imitating in Miniature Rocks and Precipices, the most dreadful and gigantick Works of Nature. After the Grotto's you have two Niches, the one inhabited by *Ceres* with her Sickle and Sheaf of Wheat, and the other by *Pomona*, who, with a Countenance full of good Chear, pours a bounteous Autumn of Fruits out of her Horn. Last of all come two Colonies of Bees, whose Stations lying East and West, the one is saluted by the Rising, the other by the Setting Sun. These, all of them being placed at proportioned Intervals, furnish out the whole Length of the Wall; and the Spaces that lie between are painted in Fresco, by the same Hand that has enriched my Cieling.

'Now, Sir, you see my whole Contrivance to elude the Rigour of the Year, to bring a Northern Climate nearer the Sun, and to exempt my self from the common Fate of my Countrymen. I must detain you a little longer, to tell you, That I never enter this delicious Retirement, but my Spirits are revived, and a sweet Complacency diffuses it self over my whole Mind. And how can it be otherwise, with a Conscience void of Offence, where the Musick of Falling Waters, the Symphony of Birds, the gentle Humming of Bees, the Breath of Flowers, the fine Imagery of Painting and Sculpture; in a Word, the Beauties and the Charms of Nature and of Art court all my Faculties, refresh the Fibres of the Brain, and smooth every Avenue of Thought? What pleasing Meditations, what agreeable Wanderings of the Mind, and what delicious Slumbers have I enjoyed here? And when I turn up some Masterly Writer to my Imagination, methinks, here his Beauties appear in the most advantagious Light, and the Rays of his Genius shoot upon me with greater Force and Brightness than ordinary. This Place likewise keeps the whole Family in good Humour in a Season wherein Gloominess of Temper prevails universally in this Island. My Wife does often touch her Lute in one of the Grotto's, and my Daughter sings to it, while the Ladies with you, amidst all the Diversions of the Town, and in the most affluent Fortunes, are fretting and repining beneath a lowering Sky for they know not what. In this Green-house we often dine, we drink Tea, we dance Country Dances, and what is the chief Pleasure of all, we entertain our Neighbours in it; and by this Means contribute very much to mend the Climate five or six Miles about us. I am,

Your most humble Servant,

T. S.

Advertisements.

*** This Day is publish'd for the Month of April, Atlas Geographus: Or, A Compleat System of Geography, Ancient and Modern. With above 100 new Maps, and as many Cuts, &c. by the best Master's, with Sanson's Tables, &c. This 24th finishes Savoy, contains Piedmont, with the adjoyning Dominions, the Ancient History and Geography of Italy, with two Maps; the History of the Origine of the Romans, and of their Kings and Consuls. Printed by J. Nutt in the Savoy; and sold by J. Morphew near Stationers-Hall. Where may be had the 23 preceding Months. Also, Bibliotheca Anatomica for May, and the Six preceding Months. Pr. 1 s. each.

Men's and Women's Morning Gowns, of Silk, Stuffs, and Callicoe's (being the Goods of Persons that failed) which were to be disposed of at the Olive-Tree and Still, are now to be sold at the Golden Sugar-Loaf up one Pair of Stairs, over-against the Horse at Charing-Cross; with a fresh Parcel at very low Rates, the Price being set on each Gown.

††† Just brought from Holland, A small Parcel of Books, chiefly Critical, cum Notis Variorum, &c. which will begin to be sold this Morning at Nine a Clock, and continue till Saturday Night, and no longer, the Price being set to each Book, at E. Curll's at the Dial and Bible against St. Dunstan's Church, Fleet-street. Where may be had a new Edition of Petronius Arbiter, on an Elzevir Letter, in a neat Pocket Volume. Pr. 1 s. 6 d. A Meditation upon a Broomstick, &c. Pr. 6 d. The History of Addresses, from their Original to this Time, with Remarks. Pr. 4 s.

*** New Musick just published: All the Songs and Symphonies in the last new Opera called Hydaspes, as they are performed at the Queen's Theatre: The whole finely engraven, and carefully corrected. Likewise the Monthly Mask of Vocal Musick, or, The newest Songs made for the Theatres and other Occasions, for May. Printed for J. Walsh, Servant in Ordinary to Her Majesty, and P. Randal, at the Harp and Hautboy in Catherine-street, near Somerset-House in the Strand, and J. Hare at the Viol and Flute in Cornhil near the Royal-Exchange.

THIS is to give Notice to all Persons that have any Concern in the Catalogue of Goods at Mrs. Boone's, Milliner, in Bloomsbury-Market, That it will be drawn on Saturday next the 3d Instant, it being almost full: Where all Persons may come and see it drawn to their Satisfaction.

A Convenient House, of 2 Rooms on a Floor, furnished or unfurnished, to be lett, adjoining to a Boarding-School, within ten Miles of London. Enquire at Mrs. Newborow's at the Golden Ball in St. Paul's Church-yard.

SIR Theodore Mayern's Opiate for the Teeth, viz. makes them clean and white as Ivory, fastneth and preserves them from the Tooth-Ach, being a most excellent Thing for preventing and killing the Scurvy, having nothing in it destructive to the Fibres; as is the Nature of all Powders. One of the largest Boxes will be sufficient, unless greatly troubled with the Scurvy, and then use more, as Occasion requires. The largest Box 2 s. 6 d. lesser 1 s. 3 d. Sold at John's Coffee-house near the Royal Exchange; at Mr. Garret's under the Exchange; Mr. Jackson's, the Corner of Wood-street, Cheap-side; Sam's Coffee-house on Ludgate-hill; the Comb under St. Dunstan's Church, Fleet-street; at the Plough in the New-Exchange; Will's Coffee-house in Scotland-yard, Gateway; Mrs. Brecknock's, the upper End of St. James's-street, Piccadilly.

THIS Chrystal Cosmetick, approved of by the Worthy Dr. Paul Chamberline, viz. cures all red Faces, takes off all Morphew, Pimples, and Freckles, cleansing and adorning the Face and Hands of both Sexes in a very beautiful Manner. Price of the largest Bottle 6 s. the lesser 3 s. Sold at Mr. Allcroft's by Exchange-alley, Cornhil; Mr. Jackson's, the Corner of Wood-street, Cheapside; the Comb under St. Dunstan's Church, Fleetstreet; Mrs. Brecknock's, the upper End of St. James's-street, Piccadilly. Note, to prevent Counterfeits, each single Bottle, with Directions, is tied and sealed with this Coat of Arms, a Frett with a Lion Rampant in a Canton.

*** An Incomparable Beautifying Cream for the Face, Neck and Hands, takes away all Freckles, Spots, Pimples, Wrinkles, Roughness, Scurf, Morphew, Yellowness, Sun-burning, renders the Skin admirably Clear, Fair, and Beautiful, has an excellent pretty Scent; is very safe and harmless, and vastly transcends all other Things; for it truly nourishes the Skin, making it instantly look Plump, Fresh, Smooth, and Delicately Fair, though before Wrinkled and Discolour'd. Sold only at Mr. Lawrence's, Toyshop at the Griffin the Corner of the Poultry near Cheapside, at 2 s. 6 d. a Gally-pot, with Directions. Beware of Counterfeits under other Names.